

LA 42-387

VIRGINIA HILL

It will be noted in the referenced report of the writer, dated September 20, 1946 that information is set forth on page 11 with reference to the plan for VIRGINIA HILL to move from her present residence at 10814 Wilshire Boulevard which apartment she was to vacate on October 1, 1946.

On September 23, 1946 [redacted] reported that [redacted] had called [redacted]

At that time [redacted] inquired of [redacted] if someone had left a package for VIRGINIA HILL and [redacted] answered in the affirmative. [redacted] instructed him not to let anyone touch the package as "it is full of money," [redacted] also remarked that VIRGINIA HILL may disappear in a week or two-- if so, [redacted] will pay VIRGINIA's bill there at the pharmacy. [redacted] indicated VIRGINIA may go to Chicago.

On September 25, 1946 [redacted] stated that [redacted] called [redacted] at the Beverly-Wilshire Hotel and stated he desired to get a two-bedroom suite for one month beginning Monday, September 30, 1946, for Miss VIRGINIA HILL. [redacted] stated he would do his best and would let [redacted] know on Saturday. [redacted] stated he would give \$50.00.

On September 28, 1946, [redacted] advised that VIRGINIA HILL called [redacted] VIRGINIA stated that [redacted] would be in tonight and that she was to take him out the next day to see a ranch which she likes and might get. VIRGINIA stated she was going to Las Vegas on Monday evening and would return Wednesday (October 2, 1946). VIRGINIA stated she was moving to the Beverly Hills Hotel on Monday morning (September 30, 1946) and BEN (SIEGEL) would go to New York on Thursday (October 3, 1946). VIRGINIA reported that she was going to Chicago Monday a week (October 7, 1946); however, no mention was made as to the manner of travel or where she would stay in Chicago.

[redacted] reported on September 29, 1946 that [redacted] had called [redacted] and informed him that [redacted] should tell BEN or VIRGINIA that her apartment was ready at the Beverly-Wilshire Hotel. Shortly thereafter this source reported [redacted] informed [redacted] that he should tell BEN that the suite at the Beverly-Wilshire was ready.

On September 30, 1946 [redacted] advised BEN SIEGEL talked to [redacted] and stated that the suite had two bedrooms and he had only wanted one. Further, he would only pay \$25.00 and it appeared that the bill would probably be \$35.00.

It was also reported on September 30, 1946 that [redacted] called [redacted] at the Beverly-Hilshire and was informed that the two-bedroom suite would be \$100.00 per day and that the call for the \$75.00 suite did not come through. [redacted] indicated that he would try to make some other plans.

It was also reported on September 30, 1946 that [redacted] was in touch with [redacted]

[redacted] and who through an anonymous telephone call was learned to be probably identical with [redacted] mentioned previously in the referenced report as being in contact with VIRGINIA HILL and WILSON. On this occasion [redacted] desired to know if [redacted] was coming over to the apartment that morning and also informed her that he and VIRGINIA were moving out of the apartment that day.

It had been noted that VIRGINIA and [redacted] went to Las Vegas on the evening of September 30, 1946 and were to return on the evening of October 2, 1946. It is thought that they would make their residence at the Beverly-Hilshire Hotel temporarily in view of the arrangements made [redacted] at that hotel. b2

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A. 62-157

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On September 30, 1946 it was ascertained through [REDACTED] that BEN SIEGEL had been in contact with his wife, ESTHER SIEGEL, at New York City during which time SIEGEL mentioned that [REDACTED] was leaving that day for New York City and would get in touch with her on Tuesday or Wednesday (October 1st or 2nd). Special Agent [REDACTED] made an anonymous phone call to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Bureau and the New York Field Office were advised of [REDACTED] trip to New York City and the New York Field Office was requested to determine [REDACTED] contacts while there. It was pointed out that SIEGEL was leaving for New York on October 3, 1946 via American Airlines and would arrive in New York City at 2:20 p.m. October 4, 1946; that he would probably get in touch with [REDACTED] while in New York City. The New York Field Office was also requested to completely cover the activities of SIEGEL while there.

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

70055

The following was dictated by Special Agent [REDACTED]

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent A. E. GUTHOLTHOFF, dated August 7, 1945 at Los Angeles in the instant case. It is noted on Page 34 that [REDACTED]

On September 23, 1945 [REDACTED] furnished information to the effect that [REDACTED] had contacted [REDACTED] who was thought to be [REDACTED] and inquired if some one had left a package there for VIRGINIA HILL. [REDACTED] answered in the affirmative and [REDACTED] instructed him not to let anyone touch it....."it's full of money". [REDACTED] stated VIRGINIA HILL may disappear in a week or two and if she did [REDACTED] would pay VIRGINIA's bill at the pharmacy. He indicated VIRGINIA may go to Chicago.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

With reference to the identity of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It has been reported that this place is the scene of considerable activities

70056

L.A. 44-3837

on the part of various hoodlums and that BEN SIEGEL and others  
order their liquor



20057

ALLEGED USE OF NARCOTICS BY BEN SIEGEL

The following was dictated by Special Agent [REDACTED]

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c

70058

L.A. 62-2437

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
By teletype dated September 17, 1946 the New York Field Office  
advised that [REDACTED] b7c

The Los Angeles Field Office files reflect a reference [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] b7c

The San Francisco and New York Field Offices were requested to  
furnish information available regarding the background activities [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] by letter dated September 23, 1946. b7c

- P E N D I N G -



70059

UNDEVELOPED

THE NEWARK FIELD DIVISION:

At Elizabeth, New Jersey will determine the identity of [redacted] and furnish all available information regarding his background and activities. In this regard, reference is made to Los Angeles letter to the Bureau dated 10/2/46.

At Newark, New Jersey will check the indices of the Newark Field Office for information regarding [redacted] as requested in letter to the Bureau dated 10/2/46.

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

At New York City will report results of investigation concerning the activities of [redacted] during his stay there as requested in teletype to the Bureau and New York City on 10/1/46.

Will report results of SIEGEL's activities while in New York City.

Will check New York Field Office indices for information [redacted] as requested in Los Angeles letter to the Bureau dated 10/2/46.

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

At Los Angeles, California this case is receiving constant attention and the daily activities of SIEGEL and his associates are being followed closely by a Special Squad at Los Angeles and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Copies of instant report are being furnished to the San Francisco and Salt Lake City Field Offices in view of the investigation presently being conducted at San Francisco, California and Las Vegas, Nevada.

A copy of this report is being sent to the Chicago Field Office in connection with the Capra Case.

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

70060

[REDACTED]

7F  
DEA

[REDACTED]

(The above individual requested that his name  
be kept confidential).

# INDEX GUIDE

TITLE: BENJAMIN "BUGS" SIEGEL

b7c

SPECIAL AGENT: [REDACTED]

CHARACTER OF CASE: MISCELLANEOUS;  
INFORMATION CONCERNING; CRIME  
SURVEY

DATE: 10-11-46

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LANSKY, THE BUG

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

LUCIANO, LUCKY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**FILE DESCRIPTION**

**BUREAU FILE**

**SUBJECT** BUGSY SIEGEL

**FILE NO.** 62-81518

**SECTION NO.** 10

**SERIALS** 287

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

62-8863

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT  
NEW YORK

DATE WHEN  
MADE

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE  
10/1-20/46

NOV 7 1946

TITLE  
BENJAMIN "DUKE" SIEGEL, with aliases

INFORMATION CONCERNING  
CRIME SURVEY

68869

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SIEGEL registered Roosevelt Hotel 10/5/46 and checked out 10/19/46 enroute to west coast via Chicago. While in NYC SIEGEL visited his wife and children at 88 Central Park West; his mother in Brooklyn;

FRANK COSTELLO at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel and also at the Copacabana. He is believed to have made arrangements for a loan at the Nestan Company, NYC

He was a frequent companion of an individual believed to be [redacted] and used [redacted] car on occasions in NYC. He visited the Hollywood Theater Ticket Agency, a notorious hang-out for racketeers, almost every day. He also visited the Park Lane Hotel on several occasions where he was believed to be in contact with one [redacted]. Full coverage of SIEGEL discontinued 10/10/46 on receipt of instructions from Bureau.

- P -

## REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [redacted]  
9/26/46, New York.

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:

*Edward J. Schmitt*

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

- COPIES OF THIS REPORT
- 5 - Bureau
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  - 2 - Newark (info)
  - 2 - Salt Lake City (info)
  - 3 - Los Angeles
  - 2 - New York

NOV 15 1946

INDEXED

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

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NY 62-8883

68870

NY 62-8883

Re: BENJAMIN "BUGS" SIEGEL  
Activities in New York City, October 5  
to October 10, 1946

The following is being dictated by Special Agent [REDACTED] and reflects information concerning the activities of BENJAMIN "BUGS" SIEGEL while he was in New York City from October 5 to October 10, 1946. b7c

During this period SIEGEL was under physical surveillance and his activities while he resided in rooms 627-629 of the Roosevelt Hotel were also covered. The agents participating in the coverage of SIEGEL were as follows: [REDACTED] b7c

Information obtained through [REDACTED] and the physical surveillance maintained on SIEGEL during this period developed most of SIEGEL's contacts and movements during this time. Surveillance and plant logs were maintained and these logs reflect the activities of SIEGEL as observed or obtained by the individual agents. These logs are being maintained in the files. b7c

In accordance with information received from the Los Angeles Field office that SIEGEL would arrive at LaGuardia Airport at 9:15 a.m. on October 5, 1946, a surveillance was instituted in an effort to cover this individual upon his arrival in New York City. SIEGEL was not observed at the airport. However, it was learned that he registered at the Roosevelt Hotel at 11:00 a.m. on October 5, 1946 and was assigned a suite, rooms 627 and 629. The reservations for SIEGEL were not in his name, but a suite had been reserved by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company. Upon registering at the hotel he inquired for the suite reserved by the Wurlitzer Company and was assigned to rooms 627 and 629.

Prior to SIEGEL's arrival in New York City, arrangements had been made [REDACTED] whereby he would be on the look-out for SIEGEL in the event he made any visits to this address. [REDACTED] b7c

NY 62-8883

On October 6, 1946 at approximately 11:50 a.m., Mrs. SIEGEL and her two daughters were observed leaving their residence at which time Mrs. SIEGEL was driving her Chevrolet automobile, New York license 4I673. This automobile was observed to stop at 46th Street and Madison Avenue and an individual subsequently identified as "BUGS" SIEGEL entered the automobile. SIEGEL's former wife and two daughters then proceeded to 1719-23 67th Street, Brooklyn where all entered. It was determined that this address is the residence of SIEGEL's mother. They remained at this address until approximately 3:15 p.m. when all proceeded to 410 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn.

It was subsequently determined through an informant of this office that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They remained at this address for about half an hour after which SIEGEL's former wife and two daughters then proceeded to 88 Central Park West where all entered. At about 7:35 p.m. SIEGEL and his former wife proceeded in the Chevrolet to 46th Street and Madison Avenue where SIEGEL was observed to enter the hotel and proceeded to his room, and SIEGEL's former wife this time departed apparently for her residence.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NY 62-8383

[REDACTED] -3  
b7c

[REDACTED] b7D  
b7c

[REDACTED] b7D  
b7c

[REDACTED] b7D  
b7c

At 11:00 a.m. SIEGEL was observed in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel with two unidentified individuals. He was observed making several telephone calls from the telephone booth in the hotel lobby. At about 11:15 a.m. SIEGEL left the hotel with one of these individuals and entered a 1946 Oldsmobile sedan, New York license 5K7896, [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b7c

SIEGEL and this individual, who will be hereinafter referred to as [REDACTED] inasmuch as he was in this person's company a great deal, then drove to 65 W. 46th Street where SIEGEL entered a store occupied by [REDACTED]. A few minutes later SIEGEL got into [REDACTED] automobile and drove to 633 Fifth Avenue where both individuals entered the building. They stayed there about a half hour and then SIEGEL and [REDACTED] drove to the corner of Canal Street and Bowery where SIEGEL entered the Paramount Diamond Exchange and greeted [REDACTED] who has previously been referred to. [REDACTED] parked his automobile at Elizabeth and Mott Streets and then returned to the Paramount Diamond Exchange where he joined SIEGEL [REDACTED] b7c

NY 62-8883

At 1:00 p.m., SIEGEL, [REDACTED] entered a luncheonette at Canal Street and Bowery where they had lunch. They all three then returned to the Paramount Diamond Exchange and at 1:30 p.m. SIEGEL and [REDACTED] left and drove to 223 W. 46th Street, which is the address of the Hollywood Theater Ticket Agency. Incidentally, this address has been for a long period of time a favorite hang-out of numerous racketeers and Broadway characters. It is believed that among other things a handbook is operated at this address. SIEGEL remained in the vicinity of the Hollywood Agency from 2:00 to 3:25 p.m. and during this time he was observed walking in and out of the Hollywood Agency and shaking hands with a number of characters unknown to this office and appeared to be renewing a number of old acquaintances. b7c

At 3:25 p.m., SIEGEL and [REDACTED] left the Hollywood Agency and proceeded to the Empire State Building where SIEGEL met an unidentified individual, talked with him a few minutes, and then entered the building and proceeded to room 817, which is the office of Mastan Company, Inc. It was noted that just before he met this individual he opened the trunk compartment of [REDACTED] automobile and extracted therefrom what appeared to be floor or building plans. Thereafter [REDACTED] left after SIEGEL entered the building and returned in his automobile to the Hollywood Agency. b7c 11

The individual with whom SIEGEL had a short conversation and then proceeded to the Mastan Company office is described as 40 to 45 years of age, 5'8", 175 pounds, medium complexion, black hair parted on the left side, and apparently of Jewish extraction.

[REDACTED] b7c b7d

In view of the fact that the Los Angeles office has previously informed that SIEGEL contemplated a trip to New York in an effort to borrow a million and a half dollars, it is believed that since SIEGEL entered this financial institution with what probably was the plans of the Flamingo Hotel, that this is at least one institution that he is attempting to borrow money from in order to continue the building of his hotel.

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In view of the fact that SIEGEL had a pre-arranged meeting with FRANK COSTELLO at the Copacabana at 6:00 p.m., surveillance was instituted at this point at 5:45 p.m. At the time FRANK COSTELLO was observed in the bar with an unidentified person. At approximately 6:15 p.m. SIEGEL came into the Copacabana bar and immediately walked up to COSTELLO and greeted him and his companion. Then COSTELLO's companion retired with SIEGEL to a table and remained together until 7:00 p.m., at which time COSTELLO's friend left the Copacabana and SIEGEL thereafter joined COSTELLO. They engaged in conversation for about fifteen minutes at which time SIEGEL ordered a fresh drink, gulped it down, and made a hasty exit from the Copacabana. A survey of the likely spots that SIEGEL might visit was made with negative results. It was subsequently determined that he returned to his hotel room at 2:00 a.m. the next morning.

It was observed during the agents' coverage of the Copacabana that exclusive of COSTELLO's two visits with SIEGEL he held conferences with six other persons at different tables in the Copacabana, and it was also noted that young men in the place were frequently making phone calls and reporting to him. It would appear, therefore, that COSTELLO uses the Copacabana at least for part of his business activities.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] b7c b7D

[REDACTED]

At 8:15 a.m. on October 9, 1946 a bell boy arrived at SIEGEL's room with the morning newspapers but he was unable to enter as SIEGEL could not get his door open. He communicated with the desk and after some time a hotel employee was able to open SIEGEL's door. It appears that when SIEGEL retired for the night he did not know that his door was not self-locking and during the regular rounds the night watchman noticed that his door was unlocked and locked it apparently with a key that did not quite fit the lock and fouled it up. After the door was eventually opened, SIEGEL was very much alarmed over this incident. However, the hotel employee eventually convinced him as to what actually happened and he therefore was satisfied as to what happened and remarked "he was lucky there was a wide-awake night watchman"

At 8:50 a.m. SIEGEL left his room to keep his scheduled appointment at the Park Lane Hotel and he remained at the Park Lane until 1:00 p.m. when he was observed leaving the hotel with three unidentified individuals. When they left the hotel they immediately separated and SIEGEL accompanied by one of the individuals walked to the corner of 46th Street and Park Avenue where they then separated. The individual last seen with SIEGEL was described as 35 to 40 years of age, 5'11", 170 to 180 pounds, dark complexion, black straight hair, and of either Jewish or Italian extraction. He wore a blue suit and was hatless.

After leaving the above described individual SIEGEL went to the Hollywood Theater Ticket Agency at 223 W. 46th Street and a short time thereafter entered Dirty Moore's Restaurant at 216 W. 46th Street, where he remained a short time and then returned to the Hollywood Agency. At 3:45 p.m. SIEGEL, accompanied by [REDACTED] left the ticket agency, walked to Times Square where they entered [REDACTED] Oldsmobile, and then drove to the vicinity of 47th Street and Madison Avenue, where SIEGEL got

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[REDACTED]

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out of the car unnoticed by surveilling agents. It appeared that he had gone to his hotel which is located at 45th Street and Madison Avenue. However, it was subsequently determined that he had again returned to the Park Lane, remained there until about six o'clock, after which he visited his family at 88 Central Park West and remained there until approximately 8:45 and returned to his hotel room at nine o'clock.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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b7D

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D

[REDACTED]

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b7D

[REDACTED]

b7c  
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SIEGEL was observed at 10:15 a.m. on October 10, 1946 leaving the hotel accompanied by [REDACTED] They entered [REDACTED] Oldsmobile and drove to the vicinity of 3rd Avenue and East 50th Street, at which place

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SIEGEL got out of the car, made a pretense of keeping an appointment, but only walked half a block and then ran back to the car which [REDACTED] kept running, and departed. It was obvious that SIEGEL was attempting to shake the surveillance and in view of his movements he was successful in so doing. b7c

At 1:45 p.m. [REDACTED] automobile was observed at the corner of 48th Street and Lexington Avenue. However, it remained unoccupied until 2:45 p.m., at which time SIEGEL was observed to be in the lobby of the Roosevelt Hotel. b7c

At 5:00 p.m. all coverage of SIEGEL's activities was discontinued in view of telephonic instructions received by the New York office from the Bureau indicating that the coverage heretofore afforded SIEGEL should be discontinued immediately.

Reference is made to Los Angeles teletype dated October 1, 1946 relative to SIEGEL's anticipated visit to New York and further indicating that [REDACTED] a close associate and SIEGEL's leg man, left Los Angeles for New York on September 30, 1946 and indicated he would register at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c

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XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET3

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NY 62-8883

Re: BENJAMIN "BUGS" SIEGEL, was  
Miscellaneous

The following information is being dictated by Special Agent [REDACTED] b2

Reference is made to Los Angeles letters dated September 6 and October 2, 1946 concerning [REDACTED] to whom SIEGEL has attempted to send a carload of beer. In these letters it was indicated that [REDACTED] b2

[REDACTED] are mentioned.

Special Agent [REDACTED] of the Newark Field office, while talking to the writer about another matter, brought up the subject matters of these two letters. Agent [REDACTED] stated that SIEGEL was unquestionably referring to the [REDACTED] in connection with the carload of beer. He further stated that the [REDACTED] mentioned was in all likelihood the [REDACTED] who is well known in Newark and [REDACTED] and is believed to be connected with racketeers in Newark and vicinity. b2

He further stated that the [REDACTED] mentioned in these conversations might very well be [REDACTED] b2

According to Agent [REDACTED]

Reference is also made to Los Angeles Field office letter dated September 3, 1946 and New York office teletype dated September 17, 1946 in connection with telephone calls made by LANSKY in New York to SIEGEL at an unknown telephone number in Los Angeles. [REDACTED] b2

Reference is also made to Los Angeles Field office letter dated September 20, 1946 requesting additional investigation be conducted [REDACTED] b2

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[REDACTED]  
On October 1, 1946 Special Agent [REDACTED] personally checked the records [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

In this same letter it is noted that on September 18, 1946

b7c  
fBI

[REDACTED] the  
Hollywood Theater Ticket Agency, 223 W. 46th Street, New York City. As has been previously reported, this address is a hangout for racketeers and Broadway characters and it is suspected that a handbook is being operated from this establishment.

Reference is made to Los Angeles letter dated July 26, 1946 in which it is reported that [REDACTED] was believed to be going about the country in a privately owned transport plane having his own pilot and co-pilot. The New York office was requested to attempt to verify this statement and to determine [REDACTED] present residence and activities.

b7c  
fBI

b7c  
b7d  
DEA

1  
bx  
NY 62-8883

Re: HOLLYWOOD THEATER TICKET AGENCY  
225 W. 46th Street, New York City  
Telephone - Circle 5-6670

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 1, 1946: b7c

As set forth in letter from the Los Angeles Field office dated September 20, 1946, information was set forth that [REDACTED] b2  
[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b2  
[REDACTED] b7c  
As previously set forth in the report of Special Agent A. E. Ostholthoff, dated August 7, 1946 at Los Angeles, in the matter entitled "BENJAMIN BRUGS; SIEGEL; MISCELLANEOUS. INFORMATION CONCERNING, CRIME SURVEY", [REDACTED] advised that while SIEGEL is in New York City he frequents the Hollywood Theater Ticket office located on 46th or 47th Street just off Broadway.

According to records of the Department of Licenses for the City of New York, License #331069 was issued to the Hollywood Theater Ticket Agency, 225 W. 46th Street, New York City. [REDACTED] b2  
[REDACTED] b7c

The agency is engaged in the sale of theater tickets, amusement tickets, and tickets for sporting events. 117

NY 62-8883

[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED]

On December 18, 1944 an anonymous complaint was received at the Department of Licenses stating that bookmaking was going on at the Hollywood Theater Ticket Agency. Investigation conducted by the Department of Licenses on December 23, 1944 was conducted with negative results.

[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED]

The indices of the New York office were checked in the name of [REDACTED] with negative results.

[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED]

During the course of a surveillance conducted by Agents of the New York office on MEYER LANSKY, it was noted that on September 26, 1946 LANSKY's chauffeur while driving car bearing New York license 4L-3392, went to the Hollywood Theater Ticket Agency at 225 W. 46th Street. LANSKY's chauffeur appeared to be waiting for someone at the agency and after approximately one half hour departed unaccompanied.

Re: [REDACTED] b7c b7d

As set forth in the referenced letter from the Los Angeles Field office, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

118



NY 62-8883

Re: [REDACTED] b2c

Under date of September 23, 1946 the Los Angeles Field office requested that the files of the New York office be checked in an effort to determine any information available concerning [REDACTED] who was the subject of this letter. The following information concerning this individual appears in the New York files, b2c

[REDACTED] b2c

[REDACTED] b2c  
b7D

46 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b2c

[REDACTED] b2c

The subject and his connections are reported to be unscrupulous and ruthless characters who would undertake anything for profit.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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NY 62-8883

Re: ~~ESTHER SIEGEL~~

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] on October 4, 1946: b7c

In view of the fact that information was received from the Los Angeles Field office that ESTHER SIEGEL was residing at 88 Central Park West, and that in the event SIEGEL's plans to come to New York were consummated he would probably visit her, the following investigation was conducted [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b7c  
[REDACTED] b7c

XXXXXX  
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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NY 62-8383

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, N. Y.:

Will attempt to determine whether SIEGEL was successful in obtaining a loan for the Flamingo Hotel through Mastan Company, New York City.

Will attempt to identify [REDACTED] who resided at the Park Lane Hotel and with whom SIEGEL was in contact on several occasions. b7c b7D

Will attempt to determine the identity of [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] which SIEGEL mailed to Las Vegas apparently in connection with the financing of the Flamingo Hotel.

Copies of this report are being sent to the Chicago, Newark and Salt Lake City Field offices for their information in view of the fact that considerable investigation in this case was conducted by these offices and is for the completion of their files.

b7c  
FBI

68871

NY 62-8383

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Confidential informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated NOV 7 1946 at New York are as follows:

FBI  
b7c

FBI  
b2  
b7c  
b7D

b7d  
DEA

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson

DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/13/46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/13-30/46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[Redacted]</b>
----------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------

SUBJECT <b>BERNARD "BOB" SIEGEL, with aliases</b> <b>DECLASSIFIED BY SP-7 mhp</b> <b>ON 11-1-80</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>MISCELLANEOUS; INFORMATION</b> <b>CONCERNING - CRAB SURVEY</b> <b>68837</b> <b>bx</b>
--	--

**STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL**

[Redacted] for the Nevada, C.P.A., advised [Redacted] on 4/29/46 contacted him regarding application to continue construction Flamingo Hotel. [Redacted] stated the hotel construction began December, 1945 and concrete foundations for west and south buildings were poured at that time. [Redacted] was instructed to furnish C.P.A. a letter, showing that construction of the hotel had begun before the 1/26/46 "freeze order." This letter reflects construction started 12/1/45 and first concrete poured 1/5/46. [Redacted] was advised 4/29/46 that if representations were true the hotel construction could proceed and no application was needed. SIEGEL appears to be hard pressed for money to complete hotel and indicated he has been turned down on applications for loans. Efforts made to secure \$300,000 for hotel from [Redacted] SIEGEL claims the cooperation of U.S. Senators PATRICK MCCARRAN and [Redacted] SIEGEL stated he gave \$300.00 [Redacted] as a campaign contribution on 8/20/46.

APPROVED AND  
 ADVISED BY  
 CLIP(S) C  
 DATE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>R. E. Hord</b> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">62-71518-288</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">FBI</div>        37 OCT 29 1946        bx     </div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT IN FILE 3 - Bureau (AMSD) 2 - Chicago (Attn: Asst. Director) 2 - New York (J. CONNELLEY) 2 - Los Angeles (Inf.) 2 - San Francisco (Inf.) 1 - Saint Paul (Inf.) 1 - Los Angeles	

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58 JAN 24 1947

12

██████████, telephoned ██████████  
 4/19/46 regarding opening of wire service (Trans-American).  
 Stated they were having trouble getting wire line. STONE spent \$12,000 to  
 ██████████ reported wire service is working and has a  
 crew taken from STAFF and is making connections in the West.

SURTEL received divorce from subject re date 5/3/76.

**68838**

Bureau File No. 62-81518  
Report of Special Agent

Los Angeles, dated 8/20/46

b7c  
FBI



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FLAMINGO HOTEL, Las Vegas, Nevada, California called SIEGEL at the Las Vegas Club, Las Vegas, Nevada on August 13, 1946, at which time SIEGEL advised GREENBAUM that everything "is all right" as the Flamingo Hotel will be under a "lease" unless the S.P.A. can show any other cause why construction should not cease. SIEGEL stated that the Government would not be able to show anything new, but that if it can show something new he, SIEGEL, can "straighten it out". SIEGEL remarked that the S.P.A. hearing in San Francisco on August 12, 1946 cost \$15,000.

SIEGEL and GREENBAUM then discussed U.S. Senator PATRICK MC CARRAN's "putting the heat on" the Flamingo Hotel. GREENBAUM stated that he overheard a conversation at Del Mar indicating that Senator MC CARRAN is the person responsible for the "heat" and that he, GREENBAUM, got a letter from Florida "telling about this run". They then discussed the fact that [redacted] Las Vegas, Nevada, is behind MC CARRAN on this matter.

SIEGEL remarked that he is attempting to definitely ascertain the source of his opposition and that he has "three or four sources" that he is presently working on through San Francisco, California to find out where the "beef came from".

SIEGEL stated that when the recent discussion arose in Las Vegas as to whether the areas including the resort hotels and night clubs on the Las Vegas-Los Angeles Highway should be incorporated within the City of Las Vegas, [redacted] took the position that he would support such incorporation provided the City of Las Vegas would not grant gambling and liquor licenses to the Flamingo Hotel.

GREENBAUM then reminded SIEGEL, according to informant, that GREENBAUM has an excellent contact in Washington. SIEGEL replied that that was good but that he wanted to talk with [redacted] first since [redacted] is a very good friend of MC CARRAN.

[redacted] advised on August 14, 1946 that SIEGEL telephonically contacted [redacted] at the Las Vegas Club, Las Vegas from Los Angeles. During this conversation SIEGEL also talked with [redacted] and asked if the Clark County Commissioners had granted the liquor and gambling license for the Flamingo Hotel on that date. [redacted] replied that he had been attempting to ascertain if those licenses had been granted, but that [redacted] was not in his office. SIEGEL then

BB84

6

b7c

asked what stage of construction the latter building was in and [redacted] replied that the second building is 68% to 70% completed. He stated that they would be through pouring concrete by September 15, 1946. [redacted] stated that in addition to these two buildings, they have some store buildings that would represent approximately 5500 square feet which would be of concrete block construction on concrete. The cost of these store buildings was estimated at \$60,000. He added there were other

buildings on the project. [redacted] stated that the [redacted] constructing these housing accommodations was \$70,000. He added that the landscaping for the entire project would be \$150,000 and that the [redacted] disposal plan and the conditioning equipment would cost an additional \$20,000. He added that these exact figures that he was giving [redacted] had been taken from the contracts that the builders had already set.

[redacted] asked [redacted] if the above figures were approximate or actual and [redacted] replied that the building figures are approximate since they are estimate figures. He stated: "We have tried to estimate at the outside. We are taking the figures off the costs of building around here and what the contractors told us it would cost and we have added about 15%." [redacted] stated that this estimate of 15% additional costs was about right at the present time.

[redacted] stated that the costs of the buildings had been estimated at \$14.00 per square foot.

[redacted] advised [redacted] that he would need all of this information prepared in a statement form to be submitted to his principal in the application for the loan. [redacted] asked [redacted] if the latter would need a complete set of plans and [redacted] replied that [redacted] should forward the complete set of plans for the entire project there and a detailed statement of the money so far expended. [redacted] then asked [redacted] if the latter "had included the cost of land in the estimate". [redacted] replied that the land cost of \$63,000 had been included, and that the builders have a balance sheet of August 19, 1946 reflecting how much money has been spent so far; the balance of their money in the bank; and an itemized statement as to the amount of money spent on each structure. [redacted] requested that [redacted] also forward a copy of that financial statement or balance sheet with a copy of the hotel plans and specifications.

[redacted] advised [redacted] that his principal, who was making the loan, is an individual person and not a corporation and that this principal is extremely anxious to obtain the plans and specifications immediately in view of his contemplated trip to Las Vegas within about ten days for the purpose of looking the project over.

[redacted] replied that the plans for the Hotel building and for the front building are not complete. [redacted] asked if the architect has completed his plans for these two buildings and [redacted] replied: "No, the finish may not be completed; the printing specifications. We are working on those things now. We have all the structural and detail plans, but some of the detail plans may be missing".

that the structural plans for the buildings for which the loan is concerned are unimportant for decorating the buildings are unimportant.

Informant replied that he would mail copies of the structural plans on one of the buildings from Las Vegas on the night of August 22, 1946, but that the plans for the building (without identifying which building he had reference to) were in the possession of their architect in Los Angeles and that he would mail the latter plans and specifications to [redacted] from Los Angeles on August 24 or 25, 1946. 68843

Informant stated that this conversation was completed by [redacted] advising [redacted] that he would probably see [redacted] in two weeks.

On August 13 and 14, 1946 a hearing was conducted in San Francisco, California before C.P.A. Commissioner [redacted]. The purpose of this hearing was to enable the builders of the Flamingo Hotel to show cause why construction on the Hotel should not be stopped in view of a possible violation of the C.P.A. "freeze order" of March 26, 1946.

Appearing at this hearing before Commissioner [redacted] were: [redacted] and BENJAMIN STEIGEL, builders of the hotel, who were represented by [redacted]

[redacted] represented the DELWEBB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY and [redacted] also appeared at the hearing.

Details of the hearing and the outcome thereof are set forth in the report of Special Agent [redacted] San Francisco, dated August 24, 1946 in the instant case. b7c

At the conclusion of the hearing, the respondents were allowed by [redacted] to continue construction work on the hotel but the C.P.A. was ordered to show cause on or before September 5, 1946 why this construction should not continue, after which time, on the failure of the C.P.A. to show sufficient cause, the builders of the hotel would be allowed to complete the building. b7c

On August 19, 1946, Special Agents [redacted] A. E. OSTHOLTHOFF interviewed [redacted] E.P.A. at San Francisco and [redacted] G.P.A. in San Francisco. The details concerning the results of these interviews are set forth in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 24, 1946 and they will not be set out again in this report. b7c

b7c  
On August 18, 1946, Special Agents [redacted] contacted [redacted] at Los Angeles, Civilian Production Administration, at which time he advised that he had not received instructions from [redacted] at San Francisco to furnish information at this time with reference to the investigation conducted relative to the Flamingo Hotel.

On August 19, 1946, Special Agents [redacted] Resident Agent at Reno, Nevada, called on [redacted] for Nevada, C.P.A., at [redacted] 68844

A request was made of [redacted] for permission to review his file on the Flamingo Hotel, which request was granted. A review of this file reflected that the first document constituting a written record of negotiations relating to the Flamingo Hotel was a letter from [redacted] Attorney for GUS GREENBAUM and [redacted] dated April 29, 1946 and addressed to [redacted] b7c

The second document in the file was a carbon copy of a letter from [redacted] to [redacted] Las Vegas, Nevada which was a reply to [redacted] letter of the same date. b7c

The third document in the file, which was attached to [redacted] letter of April 29, 1946, was a photostatic copy of the plat plan of the Flamingo Hotel at Las Vegas, which was designated in the plat plan as the Hotel Wilkerson. This plan was dated January 12, 1946. b7c

Other documents in the file were copies of telegrams from the C.P.A., San Francisco to the WEBB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, Los Angeles b7c

[redacted] and, GUS GREENBAUM, care of the El Cortez Hotel, Las Vegas, all of which were dated April 23, 1946 and are hereinafter referred to as the April Stop Orders.

The last document in the file was a copy of a telegram from [redacted] San Francisco to [redacted] DEL WEBB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, Los Angeles, which will be discussed in detail. b7c

[redacted] stated that the Flamingo Hotel first came to his attention on April 29, 1946 when [redacted] a Las Vegas Attorney, appeared at his office [redacted] and stated that he had been instructed by the Construction Division of the C.P.A. to call on [redacted] for the purpose of discussing the construction b7c

at the Flamingo Hotel. [redacted] stated that he was desirous of filing an application for a C.P.A. Permit to continue construction on the Hotel since investigators of the C.P.A. Compliance Division in Los Angeles had instructed the builders of the Flamingo Hotel to pursue that course of action. 68845

[redacted] questioned [redacted] briefly about the dates of the beginning of construction on the Hotel and received verbal representations from [redacted] to the effect that actual construction had begun in December 1945. [redacted] stated at that time that concrete foundations had been poured for the west and south buildings, including the shops, stores, beauty parlor, barber shop, and health club. At this time [redacted] produced a photostatic copy of a blueprint, presumably prepared on January 12, 1946 by [redacted] Las Vegas, Nevada, reflecting that the Flamingo Hotel building, which at that time bore the name Hotel Wilkerson, was a single unit horseshoe shaped with lounges, dining room and service facilities on the front or west side; shops and stores on the south side or center of the horseshoe and the hotel building proper on the east and northeast sides. The horseshoe shaped unit was open at the northwest.

This plan also called for the erection of seven cottage buildings, containing 60 rooms in the rear or east side of the premises behind the hotel building. Six existing dormitory or barracks buildings were depicted in the blueprint on the south side of the premises.

[redacted] requested that [redacted] prepare a letter containing his verbal representations that construction on the hotel had begun prior to March 26, 1946 C.P.A. "freeze order", and [redacted] replied that he would have the letter prepared immediately. [redacted] left the office and went into the business district of Reno. He returned after lunch with an original and two carbon copies of a letter which he told [redacted] that he had dictated to a public stenographer in Reno. [redacted] signed the original copy of the letter and one carbon copy as Attorney for GUS GREENBAUM and [redacted] and left these two copies with [redacted] b2c

[redacted] made the carbon copy of this letter bearing [redacted] signature available. This copy is being retained in the files of the Los Angeles Field Division and is quoted as follows; b7c

Reno, Nevada  
April 29, 1946

[redacted]

132



68846

██████████  
██████████  
Pursuant to instructions received from ██████████  
██████████ C.P.A., I am herewith seeking approval  
of a building project heretofore commenced by SUS GREENBAUM and  
██████████ at Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Construction on the project, known as the 'Nevada Project', was commenced December 4, 1945, and the first concrete on the project was poured January 5, 1946. The construction project covers one large building of a horseshoe shape approximately 1,000 feet in length. The westerly portion of the building was the first part of the horseshoe structure started, and the easterly portion of the building was the last portion started.

As you will note from the copy of the plans hereto attached, the entire structure is one building, although the building has been started in sections due to the size of the same. It is such a large building that it was impossible to construct the entire construction at one time, and so as a necessity it has been started in various sections.

All of the facilities for the entire building are in the easterly portion of the structure, including boilers, cooling equipment, water equipment, etc. All utility tunnels extend from the easterly portion of the building to the westerly and southerly portion of the building. Even if the westerly portion of the building was completed, it would be impossible to operate the same due to the fact that no utility set up is provided for in that portion of the building.

It is apparent that the investigating officer who filed the original report with the San Francisco office was not aware of the fact that the entire horseshoe structure was one building. He apparently thought that because the construction was being started in three separate sections, to-wit: the west, east and the south, that the construction in each separate spot was a separate building, when in truth and in fact all of the construction was to join and make the one horseshoe building hereinabove referred to.

Up to this point, the owners of the property have expended approximately \$444,000.00, and without the permission of your office to continue and complete the entire horseshoe structure, the money invested to this date will have been an useless expenditure of funds, inasmuch as no single part or portion of said building



can be operated without the entire structure being completed.

I respectfully request a certification from your office to the effect that Mr. GREENBAUM and [redacted] may, at this time, immediately proceed to complete the construction of the entire horseshoe structure and its appurtenances, which are part of the same.

Yours very truly,

[redacted]  
Attorney for GUS GREENBAUM  
and [redacted]

[redacted] then advised [redacted] that if his representations in the letter were true to the effect that building construction had actually begun prior to the C.P.A. "free order", no C.P.A. permit was necessary and that the builders of the hotel would be allowed to proceed with the construction. To substantiate this statement, [redacted] dictated a letter

which was typed immediately by [redacted]. This letter, a copy of which was prepared by [redacted] and furnished to the agents, reads as follows:

April 29, 1946

Las Vegas, Nevada

In reference to your letter as attorney for GUS GREENBAUM and [redacted] regarding construction already started, and known as the Nevada Project: in accordance with the facts as contained in your letter, you are authorized to continue construction of the entire building referred to, and because the construction of such building was started prior to March 26, 1946, there will be no need for you to file further application therefor.

Very truly yours,

The carbon copy of this letter is being retained in the files of the Los Angeles Field Division.

\_\_\_\_\_ stated that two days subsequent to \_\_\_\_\_ visit, he had received a carbon copy of a telegram dated April 23, 1946 from \_\_\_\_\_ San Francisco, addressed to \_\_\_\_\_ WEBB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, 408 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, which stated:

REFERENCE CONSTRUCTION AT LAS VEGAS FOR \_\_\_\_\_  
AND GREENBAUM WHICH YOU STATE WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN DECEMBER 1945 IN THIS CASE THIS WORK WOULD BE EXEMPT FROM ORDER VEP-1. STATE THE FACTS TO \_\_\_\_\_ AT RENO. I HAVE DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH HIM TODAY.

68848

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
This copy was received through the mail by \_\_\_\_\_ on April 27, 1946. \_\_\_\_\_ also made a copy of the above telegram available to agents. This copy is presently retained in the files of the Los Angeles Field Division.

b2

On April 23, 1946, unknown to \_\_\_\_\_ at the time of \_\_\_\_\_ visit, \_\_\_\_\_ C.P.A., San Francisco, California had directed identically worded telegrams to the WEBB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, 408 South Spring Street, Los Angeles; \_\_\_\_\_, GUS GREENBAUM, care of the El Cortez Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. These telegrams provided:

b2

\*INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT YOU AS CONTRACTOR FOR \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ AND GUS GREENBAUM, C/O EL CORTEZ HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, ARE CONSTRUCTING A HOTEL AS PART OF A HOTEL RESORT PROJECT LOCATED SIX MILES EAST FROM LAS VEGAS ON HIGHWAY 91 IN APPARENT VIOLATION OF CPA ORDER VEP-1. THIS OFFICE IS ALSO ADVISED THAT YOU ARE ENGAGED IN WORK PRELIMINARY TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUMBER OF COTTAGES, SHOPS, STORES, AND SWIMMING POOL, AS PART OF THE SAME HOTEL RESORT PROJECT. APPLICATION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO COMPLETE ORK MAY BE FILED AS PROVIDED IN THE ORDER. INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING MAY BE SECURED FROM \_\_\_\_\_ CIVILIAN

12

13

PRODUCTION ADMINISTRATION, [REDACTED]  
FAILURE TO DISCONTINUE IMMEDIATELY ALL CONSTRUCTION WHICH IS  
NEITHER AUTHORIZED OR EXEMPT UNDER THE ORDER WILL CONSTITUTE DELIBERATE  
AND WILFUL VIOLATION AND MAY SUBJECT YOU TO SEVERE CRIMINAL  
PENALTIES PROVIDED BY LAW.

CIVILIAN PRODUCTION ADMINISTRATION  
[REDACTED]

68849

Copies of these telegrams were prepared for [REDACTED]  
Washington, D.C., [REDACTED] Los Angeles, and  
[REDACTED] Nevada. [REDACTED] stated that he did not receive  
his copies by mail until after [REDACTED] appearance at Reno on April 29,  
1946. These telegrams are referred to as the April Stop Orders on  
construction work on the Flamingo Hotel.

Copies of the above telegrams were prepared by [REDACTED]  
and are retained in the files of the Los Angeles Field Division.

[REDACTED] stated that he believes that representatives of the  
Flamingo Hotel have been in Reno on only one occasion, April 29, 1946.  
He was not certain of this, however, because of the fact that about that  
time many representatives of construction companies and builders through-  
out the state were calling on him and no record was kept of such visits.

He subsequently recalled that [REDACTED] telephonically  
contacted him from Los Angeles about April 22, 1946. [REDACTED] asked  
what progress was being made on the authorization [REDACTED] to proceed  
with the construction of the Flamingo Hotel. [REDACTED] replied that the  
entire matter was in the hands of the Compliance Division.

He stated that since April 29, 1946, no representatives of the  
DELL REBB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, the builders or the Architect, have called  
on him and that he has no correspondence relating to the hotel since that  
date.

[REDACTED] stated that in view of his initial authorization to  
[REDACTED] to proceed with the construction of the Hotel, conditioned upon  
[REDACTED] allegations contained in his letter being true, the builders of  
the Flamingo have not been required to display any C.P.A. building permit.  
He stated that he has seen the Flamingo Hotel on only one occasion and  
that was on August 14, 1946 while he was in Las Vegas for the purpose of  
organizing an Advisory Committee to assist him in the approval or dis-  
approval of building permit applications for that area. Members of this Advis-

Committee, which were completed in August 19, 1946, D.C.

88850  
With regard to the C.P.A. Commissioner's hearing at San Francisco on August 14, 1946, [redacted] stated that [redacted] in San Francisco, telephonically contacted [redacted] and requested [redacted] presence in San Francisco on August 14, 1946 for the purpose of being used as a witness at the hearing to refute the presumed testimony of [redacted] the [redacted] had given [redacted] instructions to proceed with construction on the Flamingo Hotel. [redacted] stated that pursuant to a C.P.A. Administrative rule requiring the appoint of an Advisory Committee in principal communities he had already planned to leave on that date for Las Vegas. He, therefore, advised [redacted] that it would be impossible for him to be at the hearing in San Francisco unless [redacted] would instruct [redacted] to order [redacted] to be there.

[redacted] stated that information coming to the attention of his office and that of the Construction Division Representatives of the C.P.A. about the authorized building is not automatically referred to the Compliance Division. He stated that before the Compliance Division can act on alleged building in violation of the C.P.A. "freeze order" some outside person must complain to the Compliance Division. He stated that in the past matters between the Construction Division and the Compliance Division have not been well coordinated and that the two divisions have worked independently of each other. b7c

[redacted] stated that C.P.A. regulations prohibit a district manager from approving any building, the costs of which is in excess of \$1,000,000. Approval for such a structure must be granted in Washington. District managers, however, have the authority to approve or disapprove any application for construction in an amount up to \$1,000,000 and he can also disapprove any construction job, the value of which exceeds \$1,000,000. In addition, a district manager may submit his recommendations to the C.P.A. Headquarters, Washington, when the amount of a construction project exceeds \$1,000,000 and is not denied by the district manager. A provision is also made for a builder to appeal an adverse ruling by district C.P.A. managers and this appeal is made directly to C.P.A. Headquarters in Washington. b2

[redacted] stated that he does not recall [redacted] having placed value at all on the Flamingo Hotel and that he does not recall having b7c

asked [redacted] about the value of the building.

[redacted] made copies of Veterans' Housing Order Program Number 1 together with supplements available to Agents. These orders and supplements cover all building regulations and prohibitions and instructions against building. They are being retained in the files of the Los Angeles Field Division.

68851

12-257

68852

In the report of Special Agent A. R. OSBOLTHOFF, dated August 7, 1946, at Las Vegas, information was set forth on Pages 89 and 90 relative to a front-page editorial which appeared in the "Las Vegas Tribune" of August 1, 1946, captioned "Gambling Palaces vs. Houses for Veterans." In this article [redacted] editor of the "Las Vegas Tribune" presented a somewhat scathing attack on the builders of the Flamingo Hotel, including SUGSY SIEGEL and [redacted]

[redacted]

This information was corroborated by [redacted] who advised that SIEGEL began the conversation by stating that "We had our plans completed in 1945 and January, 1946" and that the builders of the Flamingo Hotel had not violated the C.P.A. freeze order of March 26, 1946 because construction on all phases of the building had begun prior to that date.

[redacted] stated that SIEGEL referred to the C.P.A. Commissioner's hearing at San Francisco on August 13 and 14, 1946 and stated that the hearing had cost SIEGEL, [redacted] several thousand dollars. SIEGEL tended to blame the C.P.A. investigation of the hotel on [redacted] article in the "Las Vegas Tribune." He said, "Now you are writing things you know nothing about because you didn't look to see if we had the O.K. to build." You published your story that we are wrong; that we have no right to build." He told [redacted] that he is actually building up the Las Vegas area by constructing the hotel and that only a very small portion of the building is to be used for gambling purposes.

SIEGEL sarcastically quoted portions of the newspaper article. [redacted] attempted to present an argument in justification for his editorial, according to informant, saying that what he said of the Flamingo Hotel is true of everything in Las Vegas. SIEGEL demanded that [redacted] tell him why the latter had written such an article "because you didn't do that for no reason out of your head." He told [redacted] that none of the building materials had been purchased on the black market and that no money above ceiling prices had been paid for the materials. He said that no other contractors in the area had no justification for complaining because DEL WEBB had purchased all of the materials on the legitimate open market and that if DEL WEBB could buy the materials any other contractor could also obtain them.

68853  
[redacted] then stated that a number of Veterans in the Las Vegas area were complaining about the construction of the hotel. SIEGEL offered [redacted] \$1,000.00 if he could produce any Veteran who would not obtain building materials for housing and who had been injured in any way by the construction of the Flamingo. He also stated that he has approximately 200 veterans employed on the hotel construction.

SIEGEL asked [redacted] what the latter expected to gain by having published such a story. [redacted] replied that he gains the support of the "little people." SIEGEL advised [redacted] that the latter would get no advertising at all from the Flamingo Hotel. He stated that he has a weekly pay roll of \$48,000.00, all of which money was paid to local residents of Las Vegas and that he is adding materially to the community. [redacted] maintained according to informant that SIEGEL has no legal right to build a hotel. SIEGEL reminded him that fourteen weeks ago he and the other builders of the hotel had obtained an "O.K." from [redacted] of the Reno office of the C.P.A. He stated that at the San Francisco Commissioner's hearing on August 14, 1946, the newspaper article written by [redacted] was introduced in evidence and that it was the only damaging thing against them.

He asked [redacted] why other construction jobs in Las Vegas had not been attacked by [redacted] and mentioned a new office building. [redacted] replied that the office building is an essential building. SIEGEL again prodded [redacted] to divulge the source of information and complaint on the Flamingo and [redacted] replied that every veteran's Post in Nevada has passed a resolution to investigate the matter. He stated that the complaint coming from the veterans was by the leaders of the Veterans organizations rather than from the individual members themselves.

SIEGEL accused [redacted] of writing about [redacted] when [redacted] actually knows nothing about the two men. [redacted] replied that [redacted] is just "a little guy" and that [redacted] is connected with a distiller. SIEGEL denied that [redacted] is a "little guy" and mentioned several real estate holdings [redacted] in California.

SIEGEL continued to press [redacted] to divulge his source of information and again mentioned the building materials, stating that with the exception of three loads of lumber purchased during the last four to six months, the builders and contractor of the Flamingo Hotel have purchased no materials subsequent to the C.P.A. freeze order. He stated that no materials had been purchased on the black market, that no bonuses have been paid, and that no individual had been bribed.

SIEGEL told [redacted] that he would have been glad to furnish authentic information to [redacted] had the latter been interested enough to interview SIEGEL prior to writing the article. SIEGEL remarked, "My word is better than my or note and when that is gone, I will go jump in the Pacific."



DEAN mentioned that several newspaper editors and writers had written information about him that was entirely false, but that he had always presented the true picture to them and had surprised them that he was right. He mentioned that on one occasion he had received a "blast" from DEAN PEARSON, but that he had later talked with PEARSON and on the following day PEARSON "gave me the whole page." He also told [redacted] about the philanthropical tendencies of [redacted] stating that [redacted] travels all over the country paying his own expenses while acting in behalf of Jewish charitable organizations.

At the conclusion of the conversation, [REDACTED] told SIEGEL that he was glad that they had had this discussion and that if there is ever anything he can do to help SIEGEL he will do it. SIEGEL again asked him what the source of his information was, but [REDACTED] would not answer. He stated instead that he will write another article to appear in the "Las Vegas Tribune" and that he will allow SIEGEL to read it prior to its being published.

It is the opinion [redacted] that [redacted] introduced SIEGEL [redacted] and that as result of this introduction on August 21, 1946, SIEGEL made this campaign contribution.

During this conversation [REDACTED] advised SIEGEL that he had been to the Bank of America and the Occidental Insurance Company in Los Angeles for the



68855  
12-457

purpose of applying for a loan, but had been "turned down." He told SIEGEL that "the man at the insurance company was sold as live." [redacted] stated that many excuses were made by the two companies for not making the loan to [redacted] and SIEGEL and that the Bank of America had stated that they do not consider Las Vegas to be a first-rate town.

[redacted] said that he went to the Bank of America with [redacted] because [redacted] knows some of the bankers there. [redacted] called [redacted] later on the phone and told [redacted] that he was surprised at the cool reception he had received at the Bank of America. [redacted] said that [redacted] later called one of his friends at the Bank and asked why he had received such a cool reception and was informed by this bank contact that SIEGEL, [redacted] were "very hot." [redacted] asked the banker for an explanation and the banker replied that there has been an investigation of [redacted] and that [redacted] the Flamingo Hotel, had been visited by two FBI Agents on August 20, 1946. SIEGEL then replied that if Agents had visited [redacted] there is evidently a lot of "heat on."

SIEGEL remarked that in all probability the persons responsible for putting on the heat are [redacted]

[redacted] He remarked that he is getting very good proportion at the present time from United States Senators PATRICK McCARRAN and [redacted] SIEGEL remarked that he had given [redacted] \$500.00 as a campaign contribution on August 20, 1946.

SIEGEL then remarked that the Government evidently feels that he had bribed [redacted]

SIEGEL and [redacted] then discussed the prospect of investigators having been out at the hotel site. They agreed that they should adopt a plan to keep unauthorized persons off the hotel premises and stated that they would employ guards day and night and have them deputized [redacted]

They also agreed to erect a fence and string wire around the hotel premises. SIEGEL remarked that he would like to construct a floor of concrete walls and roof to join the hotel building to the casino building in order to conform to the plans placed before the C.F.A. hearing at San Francisco on August 14, 1946. He remarked that the connecting link would be a "phony" but that it would give the appearance of their having only one building instead of two. He also estimated the cost of this connecting link at \$15,000. [redacted] then suggested to SIEGEL that he issue instructions to the DEL Webb Construction Company on the following morning (August 21, 1946) to erect a fence and lay out the floor plan for the connecting link between the two buildings.

It should be noted that a visual inspection of the premises by Special Agents [redacted] on August 21, 1946 and [redacted]

88856

each day subsequent to that date reveal that a guard has been stationed near the highway at the front of the premises and a fence has been erected around the hotel buildings.

SIEGEL and [redacted] discussed the application for loan which they had placed with [redacted] and agreed that they should increase the application from \$500,000.00 to \$600,000.00. [redacted] stated that he would call [redacted] on the following day with regard to the loan.

[redacted] then suggested that arrangements be made through United States Senator PAT McCARRAN to apply for a loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. [redacted] then suggested to SIEGEL to advise McCARRAN that it would "be good for McCARRAN to play dumb about the money going into the place" in the event McCARRAN should be questioned about the original financial arrangements in the Flamingo Hotel.

SIEGEL suggested to [redacted] that it may be advisable for someone to contact insurance companies in the vicinity of Boston for the purpose of obtaining a loan.

SIEGEL's and [redacted] conversation returned to a discussion of the proposed connecting link between the two buildings and [redacted] stated that he would instruct the contractor to begin erecting forms for pouring the concrete floor and walls on the following day. They then decided that they would construct this connecting building in such a manner that it could be used temporarily for a health club. SIEGEL told [redacted] that the latter should stop referring to the hotel as buildings no. 1 and no. 2, but instead should start referring to the construction job as the "front and the rear of the building."

SIEGEL concluded the discussion by remarking that since the FBI is interested in the hotel building he will have to be very cautious about the money he spends in the future and that he will have to acquire additional money immediately. From the above conversation, it was evident according to [redacted] that SIEGEL and [redacted] are extremely worried at the present time about their prospects of obtaining a loan for the continuation of the construction project.

[redacted]

68857

[REDACTED] was present on August 16, 1946 when SIEGEL advised MDE SELWAY that prior to the C.P.A. hearing in San Francisco he did not know who [REDACTED] C.P.A. Enforcement Division, Los Angeles, was. He stated that immediately after the hearing [REDACTED] came up to him and advised him that [REDACTED] did not know that SIEGEL had an interest in the Hotel when he originally started investigating the possible C.P.A. violation. [REDACTED] told SIEGEL that had he known SIEGEL had an interest in the building, he, [REDACTED] would have helped SIEGEL out. SIEGEL remarked that [REDACTED] had previously worked with [REDACTED] in an investigation for SIEGEL, MEYER LANSKY, FRANKIE COSTELLO, and others in New York City after the conviction of CHARLES "LUCKY" LUCIANO and that this investigation was conducted for the purpose of determining if the witnesses against LUCIANO had committed perjury.

68858 22C

The following was dictated by Special Agent (A) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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68861-1

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The foregoing information was furnished [REDACTED] without any hesitation whatsoever and he advised that if any further information was desired he would be glad to help.

[REDACTED]

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

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68863

LA 44-2387

The following was dictated by Special Agent [REDACTED]

b7c

On August 28, 1944

[REDACTED] called at the Los Angeles Field Office and was interviewed by Special Agent in Charge R. B. MOON.

b7c  
b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



L.A. 82-4337

68864

THREATENED KIDNAPING

The following was dictated by Special Agent

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

68865

The following description was furnished by Special Agent [redacted]  
as obtained by observation [redacted]

Height	5' 5" or 6"
Weight	185
Age	45
Race	Jewish
Hair	Black, parted on left side and slightly wavy
Eyes	Brown
Nose	Semi-flat
Complexion	Medium
Face	Square
Peculiarities	Heavy beard, double chin and very straight mouthline
Eyebrows	Bushy

[redacted] b7c

Special Agent [redacted] Los Angeles, determined on August 20, 1946 that a [redacted] had left Las Vegas at 8:30 p.m. on August 17th, via T.W.A. Flight Number 4, Plane Number 339 on a ticket purchased to Chicago. It was indicated there was to be a plane change at Kansas City. However, there was no reservation for [redacted] from Kansas City to Chicago. It was learned that he could go by Mid-Continent Air Lines to Minneapolis from Kansas City or via the Braniff Air Lines. Also, he could go to Chicago and then take the T.W.A. plane to Minneapolis. Special Agent [redacted] also reported that on August 17th, SIEGEL had requested the Western Air Lines

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68866

for reservations on the flight to Chicago. Western Air Lines confirmed these reservations and SIEGEL would leave at 9:30 a.m. on August 21, 1946. However, he was informed that the United Air Lines was unable to confirm his reservation from Denver to Chicago as the first available space from Denver was said to be September 9, 1946.

Arrangements were made with the Denver Field Office to cover BEN SIEGEL in the event he left on the Western Air Lines for Denver, where he would then transfer to United Air Lines for Chicago.

On the evening of August 20, 1946, Special Agent [REDACTED] telephonically advised from Las Vegas that [REDACTED]

Agent [REDACTED] also furnished additional information regarding SIEGEL's reservations which reflected that on August 17, 1946 SIEGEL had made reservations for both himself and [REDACTED] with the Western Air Lines for his trip to Chicago as previously indicated. The reservations were confirmed only as far as Denver. They were scheduled to leave August 21st at 9:20 a.m. and arrive at Denver at 1:58 p.m. on Flight 400 from Las Vegas. It was also reported to Agent [REDACTED] that SIEGEL had cancelled his trip to Chicago and was to leave Las Vegas for Los Angeles by car on the afternoon of the 21st. The reservation for [REDACTED] was not cancelled. Further inquiries were made to verify the cancellation of SIEGEL's trip and to determine whether [REDACTED] actually departed for Chicago as scheduled. It was subsequently ascertained by Special Agent [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] did not make the trip and that SIEGEL returned to Los Angeles.

Through [REDACTED] it was learned that on August 20, 1946 at 7:17 p.m. a telephone call was made to BEN SIEGEL at his room in the Last Frontier Hotel from an unknown person, at which time the following conversation took place:

CALLER: BEN?

SIEGEL: [REDACTED] where are you, in Cleveland?

CALLER: No, I am in town. That guy didn't want to go through with it, so I got a delay. I just wanted to let you know.

SIEGEL: Well, I'll see you tomorrow. At least I will see you tomorrow night.

LA 44-363

It was thought that the caller in this instance  
and that the conversation referred to the plans for  
kidnaping

b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7D

b7c  
b7D

151

b7c  
[REDACTED]  
L.A. 62-2857

The Bureau, Chicago and St. Paul Field Offices were advised August 22, 1946 that the proposed kidnaping [REDACTED] had been temporarily abandoned. b7c

THE TRANS-AMERICAN WIRE SERVICE

SECRET and GUS GREENBAUM were engaged in a telephonic discussion between Las Vegas and Del Mar, California at which time GREENBAUM remarked that he did not believe that JAMES M. RAGEN, SR., had died from complications resulting from his shooting in June, 1946; but that he believed that members of the syndicate had actually succeeded in killing RAGEN later in August, 1946. RAGEN remarked that he had discussed RAGEN's death with

and that [redacted] had stated that at 5:00 A.M. on August 11, 1916, the Trans-American radio announced that RAGEN had been killed by members of the Chicago syndicate who succeeded in getting in RAGEN's hospital room. GREENBAUM then asked SEINFAY if the latter supposed that State officials in the newspapers had deliberately suppressed the true facts of the killing. GREENBAUM then remarked that it would be very easy to suppress these facts if "they have the coroner."

According to informant, GREENBAUM and SEDWAY then discussed the fact that [redacted] was planning to lease the Continental Fire Service to [redacted] in apparent violation of the verbal agreement between the Continental Fire Service and SEDWAY whereby SEDWAY was to have the exclusive use of the service in Las Vegas.

62-2837

[REDACTED] b7

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that he was present at the Las Vegas Club on August 18, 1946 when SIEGEL placed a long distance telephone call to [REDACTED]. SIEGEL advised [REDACTED] that he had been attempting to reach [REDACTED] all day and asked [REDACTED] why the new wire service (Trans-American Publishing and News Service, Inc.) had not been sent down to Las Vegas. [REDACTED] replied that he and his associates were having a hard time getting the wire in and that they have to go "a round about way". SIEGEL remarked that he had contacted the Western Union manager in Las Vegas and was told by the manager that "those other people told him not to put it in." Informant stated that SIEGEL obviously meant that representatives of the Continental News Service had requested Western Union to delay negotiations with Transamerican News Service and Publishing Company. SIEGEL said that the manager told him to stall the matter as long as he could and to tell anyone else that Western Union trunk lines are loaded. SIEGEL then told [REDACTED] "If we can get the wire in I will throw the other fellows out." [REDACTED] replied, "I am glad you told me. We will get on with it." [REDACTED] then told SIEGEL that [REDACTED] can be reached any time at the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago. SIEGEL asked [REDACTED] had received the check for \$12,000.00 which he had sent. [REDACTED] replied in the affirmative and then SIEGEL asked if the new wire service has been functioning yet, and if the new service is "shooting in from the East yet." [REDACTED] replied that the new service is working and that the new service has an entire crew that was taken away from RAGEN that is making connections in the East and already submitting wire service to Chicago from the East. SIEGEL then instructed [REDACTED] to hurry up and finish the wire service the West Coast so he can "throw them out of here."

[REDACTED] advised on August 18, 1946 that SIEGEL telephonically contacted [REDACTED] at Los Angeles and told [REDACTED] that the latter would come to Las Vegas during the week of August 26, 1946. [REDACTED] replied that he could not come to Las Vegas at that time unless his wife [REDACTED] has had her baby by that time. SIEGEL said [REDACTED] must be [REDACTED] latter would come to Las Vegas on that date irrespective of whether the [REDACTED]

b2  
b7c  
b7d

15

62-2837

has had her baby or not. SIEGEL argued with [redacted] and said, "Either come up or don't, birth or no birth. The place is to open on August 26, 1946."

It is known, however, that the new wire service has not opened in Las Vegas because on August 27, 1946, Special Agent [redacted] inspected the offices to be used by the Golden Nugget News Service on the second floor of the Golden Nugget Saloon Building and observed that the offices have not been completed. The woodwork has not been installed and the raw plaster on the walls has not been finished.

[redacted] stated that on August 18, 1946 [redacted] at Los Angeles called SIEGEL at the Hotel Last Frontier, Las Vegas, and wanted to know what the status of the new wire service in Los Angeles and Las Vegas is. SIEGEL replied that the wire service has not been put in Las Vegas yet, but that he was going to make a call to Chicago on August 19, 1946 and would determine the cause of the delay. [redacted] asked SIEGEL if the latter thought there would be any changes in the Continental News Service since RAGEN died. SIEGEL replied "We are liable to wind up with the whole thing and might not have to switch over, but just take over from there. There is a good possibility." [redacted] replied that he had to have facilities before he could operate and SIEGEL stated that if the switch over is made "We'll get their facilities too."

[redacted]

The following was dictated by Special Agent [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b2  
b7c  
b7D



62

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to page 62 of the report of Special Agent A. E. OSTHOLTHOFF, dated August 7, 1946 at Los Angeles where information is set forth regarding [REDACTED]

regarding [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

\_\_\_\_\_

June 3, 1922 made at Cincinnati, Ohio, by Special Agent [redacted] state

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[REDACTED]  
L.A. 62-2837

City Field Division on August 8, 1946 with the request that they furnish details relative to the black market operations [REDACTED] bx



the Los Angeles Field office files

An examination of the Los Angeles Field office files reflects that on Page 180 of the General Crime Survey, L.A.F.D., dated April 15, 1945, that BEN SIEGEL, [REDACTED] and other racketeers in this area frequently spend week-ends at the home of [REDACTED]

The following information is being reported to reflect activities with reference to the notorious gin rummy games which have been reported in the newspapers in Los Angeles.

[REDACTED]

The General Crime Survey, L.A.P.D., October 15, 1945, reflects that  
on November 1, 1945

[REDACTED]

On August 22, 1946, the same source advised that BEN SIEGEL had called  
at which time [REDACTED] informed SIEGEL that [REDACTED] was  
playing with [REDACTED] from Texas and lost 10."

[REDACTED]

With reference to [REDACTED] the report of Special Agent  
[REDACTED] dated August 21, 1946, Chicago, in the SIEGEL case, indicates  
that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

67c

82-2837

[REDACTED]

On August 22, 1946, [REDACTED] advised that while BEN SIEGEL and [REDACTED] were talking [REDACTED] informed SIEGEL that he had "a horse for BEN." BEN indicated that he had gotten one from [REDACTED] the other day and put \$1500 on it. [REDACTED] indicated that [REDACTED] had called [REDACTED] on this one apparently referring to the horse mentioned by SIEGEL. [REDACTED] stated that he had received a beautiful set of dishes from [REDACTED] New York. SIEGEL stated that he had called [REDACTED] the other night at Atlantic City. This reference to MEYER is believed to be MEYER LAMLEY.

The following information is set forth with reference to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated August 21, 1946 at Chicago in the CARGA case, reports that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Further it is stated on page 86 of the referenced report that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] According to the referenced report, [REDACTED]



62-2877

On August 28, 1946, [redacted] reported that [redacted] intended to return to Del Mar probably over the week-end.

An examination of the mail cover results for all mail received at [redacted] residence failed to reflect any communication which would be of assistance to this investigation at this time and was not being set forth in this report.

**BENJAMIN SINGEL'S DIVORCE FROM MRS. SINGEL, RENO**

The Salt Lake City Office by letter dated August 14, 1946 advised that the divorce records of Washoe County Clerk's Office, Reno, Nevada Docket Number 108261, reflected that on August 8, 1946 ESTHER L. SINGEL was granted a divorce from BENJAMIN SINGEL.

The decree granted an absolute divorce, gave custody of the children to the mother, with the right of visitation as set forth in the complaint. . . The property agreement was approved and fully adopted by the Court.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

62-81518-288 pg 49

XXXXXX  
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X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**VIRGINIA**

In the referenced report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at Los Angeles, on Page 51, detailed information is set forth concerning the background and activities of VIRGINIA HILL, paramour of BENJAMIN SIEGEL.

b3  
usc  
3103  
b7c  
RRS

46

An examination of the mail cover results furnished by the Post Office Department failed to reflect any information which would appear to be pertinent to the investigation at this time.

62-2857

[REDACTED] the  
above two sources did not reflect the occupant VIRGINIA HILL as residing at  
that address.

LA 62-2857

BENJAMIN "BUSS" SIEGEL'S ALLEGED RELATIONS WITH  
HENRIQUE DURATE, DOPE SMUGGLER, NOW MURDERED, AND OTHERS

The following was dictated by Special Agent [REDACTED]

In the referenced report of Special Agent [REDACTED] on Page  
52 information is set forth regarding [REDACTED] in connection with the  
above-captioned matter.

65  
716  
DTF  
DEA

2.4. 92-3837

ALLEGED KIDNAPING OF MRS. EVELYN FINLAYSON

The following was dictated by Special Agent [REDACTED]

In the referenced report of Special Agent [REDACTED] on Page 19 information was set forth regarding the alleged kidnaping of Mrs. EVELYN FINLAYSON.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]